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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4955
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EFIN, CZ
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK CPCC MEETING

REFS A) PRAGUE 0699 B) 77 PRAGUE 3469

1. SUMMARY: CPCZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM ADJOURNED A DAY EARLIER THAN EXPECTED, ON MARCH 16, HAVING TAKEN ONLY ONE PERSONNEL DECISION AND AFTER DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT NO ANNOUNCED DECISIONS. JOSEF HAMAN, HERETOFORE CHIEF OF PRESIDENT HUSAK'S OFFICE, REPLACES CESTMIR
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LOVETINSKY IN CC SECRETARIAT, IN A MOVE THAT REAFFIRMS HUSAK'S CONTINUING CONTROL. PUBLICATION OF PRESIDIUM REPORT STILL AWAITED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR DECISION TO COME OUT OF CC PLENARY SO FAR IS NAMING OF JOSEF HAMAN, A CZECH AND AN ECONOMIC EXPERT CLOSELY IDENTIFIED

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WITH HUSAK, TO POSITION IN CC SECRETARIAT OCCUPIED SINCE
1976 BY CESTMIR LOVETINSKY,
A CADRE SPECIALIST. HAMAN PRESUMABLY TAKES OVER LOVETINSKY'S
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR "POLITICAL ORGANIZATION" (CADRE) WORK.
HE WAS COOPTED INTO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SIMULTANEOUSLY
MADE A FULL SECRETARY IN ADDITION TO REPLACING LOVETINSKY.

3. COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF HAMAN RESEMBLES ELEVATION OF
MIKULAS BENO TO THE IMPORTANT SECRETARIAT LAST DECEMBER 1
(REF B). THOUGH BENO IS A SLOVAK AND HAMAN A CZECH, BOTH ARE
CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH HUSAK. BENO HEADED HUSAK'S COMMUNIST
PARTY OFFICE FROM 1974 UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT IN DECEMBER;
HAMAN HAS HEADED HUSAK'S STATE OFFICE SINCE 1976. THEY ARE BOTH
ECONOMIC EXPERTS, WHOSE POSITIONING IN THE
SECRETARIAT SHOULD HELP HUSAK COUNTER ANY CRITICISM OF HIS ABILITY
TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP. BOTH HAMAN AND BENO WERE MADE
FULL SECRETARIES OF THE CC AS WELL AS SECRETARIAT MEMBERS. WITH
MILOS JAKES, WHO HAS SOMETIMES BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A HUSAK FOE,
TIED DOWN TO THE AGRICULTURAL PORTFOLIO AND DEPRIVED OF THE
LICENSE TO MEDDLE IN PARTY AFFAIRS THAT GOES WITH CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE CENTRAL CONTROL AND REVISION COMMISSION, NOW IN THE
HANDS OF MIROSLAV CAPKA (REF B), IT APPEARS TO US THAT
HUSAK'S POSITION HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY STRENGTHENED SINCE
DECEMBER. END COMMENT.

4. NO PARTICULAR FACTION SEEMED TO TAKE PRECEDENCE IN
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DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WAS
SAID, ONLY THAT FUELS AND ENERGY MINISTER EHRENBERGER DISCUSSED
PROBLEMS WITH COAL MINING, ELECTRICAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIZING IN
THE ENERGY FIELD; DEPUTY PREMIER ROHLICEK SPOKE ABOUT
EXTERNAL TRADE AND COOPERATION AND SPECIALIZATION WITHIN CEMA;
AND FINANCE MINISTER LER SPOKE ABOUT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. IN
THIS CONNECTION, LER "EMPHASIZED THAT FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE
PLAN AND TO ATTAIN HIGH EFFECTIVENESS AND QUALITY OF PRODUCTION,
FINANCIAL AND BANK ORGANS MUST CONTRIBUTE MORE ENERGETICALLY". THIS,
WE SUSPECT, COULD BE A HINT THAT FINANCIAL MEASURES OF SOME
SORT, PERHAPS THE FLOATING OF HARD CURRENCY LOANS, ARE
CONTEMPLATED.

5. EMBASSY WILL BE TAKING STOCK OF CC SESSION
IN COMING DAYS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER FINDINGS.

"DECONTROLLED AFTER FOUR YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE".
BYRNE

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